EJF ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEMBERS

Chairman
Moshe Kantor

Secretary General
Ariella Woitchik

Treasurer
Vladimir Kantor

Advisory Council:
Albert Aflalo
Jonathan Arkush
Yohan Benizri
Yaakov D. Bleich
Boris Cerin
Vladimir Chernitsky
Jakob Finci
Ishak Ibrahimzadeh
Alla Jakobson
Ervin Kohn
Ognjen Kraus
Tomas Kraus
Faina Kukliansky
Yaron Nadbornik

Alexander Oscar
Petr Papoušek
Leslaw Piszweski
Igor Rintel
Berta Romano-Nikolikj
Dan Rosenberg Asmussen
Robert Sabadoš
Gabriel Steinhardt
Arkady Suharenko
Aurel Vainer
Aron Verständing
Herbert Winter
Ami Yeshurun
Dear Friends,

A central principle of the Jewish people is the spirit of community and solidarity. This is expressed in many ways. Wherever Jews have lived, they have built synagogues and schools, and have established social and charitable organisations.

Today, the concept of community has changed. While dispersed geographically throughout Europe, we live lives that are intimately connected through social media and mass communications. It is right that we feel an empathy and a responsibility to this expanded and wider community as once we felt it only to our immediate physical neighbourhood.

The European Jewish Fund takes the traditional model of Jewish philanthropy and expands it in a way that meets today’s definition of Jewish community. It aims at linking those from afar with the targeted resources to meet their specific needs and aspirations, spreading Jewish education, culture and social interaction, building a united Jewish community for the 21st century in all its diversity.

I thank all our grantees for enabling the European Jewish Fund to be part of this Jewish life in Europe and encourage you to provide further opportunities for us to assist all our communities in our collective mission.

Moshe Kantor
Chairman
European Jewish Fund
# CONTENT

## ABOUT EJF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COMMUNITY BUILDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limmud (Czech Republic)</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Forum “Jahad” 2017 (Estonia)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUJS – Summer U 2017</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household survey (Serbia)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limmud Helsinki (Finland)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CULTURE & HERITAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yom Yerushalaim (Italy)</th>
<th>22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition – Swiss Jews: 150 Years of Equality (Switzerland)</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘The Youth of 1948” Documentary (Israel)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Youth Theatre (Ukraine)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day of Jewish Culture (Belarus)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Chanukah Concert (Belarus)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
04 RESEARCH, EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

- Jewish Education [Spain] 34
- ISGAP – Oxford Summer Institute [USA/UK] 36
- EJF Leadership Programme 2016/2017 [Paideia Institute: European Institute for Jewish Studies] 38
- EUJS – EU Activism seminar 40
- TAU Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry [Israel] 42
- Jewish Information & Outreach Centre [Denmark] 44
- Youth Counselor Program [Greece] 46

05 SHOAH MEMORY

- Run for Remembrance [Italy] 48
- Holocaust in Bessarabia [Moldova] 50
- March of the Living Missions [Greece] 52
- “Such a Beautiful Sunny Day” by Prof. Barbara Engelking - English edition [Yad Vashem] 54
ABOUT EJF
ABOUT THE EUROPEAN JEWISH FUND

The European Jewish Fund (EJF) was founded in February 2006 by Moshe Kantor to help strengthen Jewish life and identity throughout Europe. Moshe Kantor firmly believes that assimilation is an existential and urgent threat to European Jewry, and must be addressed through programmes that reconnect Jews with Jewish life and values.

The EJF focuses especially on young people and connecting them to their Jewish peers. It supports a range of educational and leadership programmes that reinforce Jewish identity, and foster pride in religion, culture and sense of community. The supported projects are often dedicated to educating our young people about Jewish achievements in all aspects of life, ranging from culture to science to medicine.
MISSION

Promoting Jewish Identity

The European Jewish Fund, initiated by Moshe Kantor, is committed to strengthening Jewish identity. Its activities develop national pride and reinforce Jewish identity within communities. The EJF highlights and celebrates Jewish individuals and their remarkable contributions to European and global society and culture.

Bringing Jewish Communities Together

The EJF is a unique platform for donors and community leaders to come together to discuss and analyse the needs of European Jews. Annual EJF Advisory Council meetings foster dialogue between Jewish communities, with open exchanges of experience that produce cooperative solutions to shared challenges. The EJF supports and welcomes proposals and action plans for communal projects and regional and pan-European programmes. It also initiates programmes of its own to address issues concerning specific communities, or European Jewry as a whole. These EJF activities help strengthen the relationship between Europe’s Jewish communities.

Shoah Remembrance

Moshe Kantor and the EJF are committed to promoting educational programmes that ensure the lessons and memory of the Shoah live on. One of the EJF’s founders, the World Holocaust Forum Foundation, holds together with the European Jewish Congress the “Let My People Live!” international forums. To date four of these forums have been held, the last two in cooperation with the President of the European Parliament:

January 2005 – The first forum, in Krakow, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

September 2006 – The second forum, in Kyiv, marked 65 years since the atrocity in Babi Yar.

January 2010 – The third forum, in Krakow, commemorating the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

January 2015 – The fourth forum took place in Prague and Terezin, commemorating the 70th anniversary since the liberation of concentration and death camps.

The EJF helps organise these high-level international gatherings to preserve historical memory and evidence, and encourage the international community to unite in the fight against hatred and xenophobia.
OBJECTIVES

The Association is established to pursue the following objectives:

> Assisting Jews and Jewish Communities throughout Europe in promoting activities relating to European Jewry, Jewish Communities, and communal Pan-European organizations.

> Supporting European Jewish culture, tradition and highlighting key Jewish contributors to society and their achievements in culture, art, music and science.

> Supporting and contributing to Jewish institutions and organizations throughout Europe, including national, regional, sub-regional and communal.

> Fighting antisemitism and other forms of religious, cultural and/or racial discrimination.

> Promoting respect, tolerance and cooperation between people of different national, cultural, ethnic, racial and/or religious backgrounds or affiliations.

> Supporting organizations and institutions involved with Holocaust remembrance.

> Securing human rights throughout Europe as stipulated by the International Bill of Human Rights of the United Nations, the European Convention on Human Rights and help implement human rights programs, including those in cooperation with UNESCO.

> Developing closer ties between European Jewry, and its communal institutions, with the State of Israel.

> Fostering educational, cultural and welfare related programmes and activities for the benefit of Jews across the world, including the State of Israel.

> Organizing international conferences that openly discuss and help find solutions to the problems and challenges facing European Jewry.
The European Jewish Fund (EJF) aims to ensure that the Jewish communities and Jewish life in Europe in general enjoys a long and bright future. EJF encourages and welcomes communal Jewish gatherings that foster dialogue between communities and its members with open exchanges of experience that produce common solutions to shared challenges.
As in previous years, Limmud Czech Republic 2017 was a great success. The event offered a wide variety of activities for children and adults featuring lectures, workshops, discussions, discos (both for kids and adults), sport activities, children workshops of challah bradding, Torah stories crafts, joint meals, Shabbat programme, etc. The meeting was once more very successful in creating an inclusive atmosphere where everybody can feel welcome.
The gathering reached its full capacity of 210 attendees within one day of opening the registration. Almost half of attendees were children and young people under the age of eighteen. Young Jewish leaders assisted in the realisation of children’s activities, whilst also taking part in activities designed for their age group.

The Limmud Czech Republic 2017 offered a large choice of learning and social activities, which created a vivid atmosphere of social interaction. The event was set in an open and democratic environment where people of different approaches to Judaism were given stage to present sessions.

Nearly two thirds of all the adults applied to volunteer either in presenting learning sessions, preparing workshops for children, volunteering in the first aid team or helping with the logistics of the event. It is particularly this spirit of community, which made the Limmud Czech Republic so special in 2017.
THE 11TH FORUM OF ESTONIAN JEWRY “JAHAD”
JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ESTONIA

The goal of the Forum of Estonian Jewry “Jahad” is to bring together Jewish people of all ages and from all over Estonia and provide them with a place and opportunity to share their views, opinions, questions and problems regarding all areas of Jewish life in Estonia in an open and friendly atmosphere.

“Jahad” is a great outlet for the Jewish Community of Estonia to inform not only its members, but also its guests and potential participants about its activities and encourage their participation in future community events. The Forum serves as an excellent dialogue platform for Russian- and Estonian- speaking Jews and promotes their mutual cooperation.

The 11th annual Jahad Conference, organised by the Jewish community of Estonia, took place in the resort of Pärnu on September 1-3, 2017. With the support of the European Jewish Fund, this edition was able to bring over 500 participants together from Estonia and beyond, including more than 100 children for a memorable weekend of lectures, concerts, workshops and lively discussions.

The programme included a Jewish film festival, which included a screening of the trilogy “Russian Jews” by renowned journalist and producer Leonid Parfyonov. The festival also featured a fascinating interactive session with Israeli filmmaker Boris Maftsir, which followed the screening of his spellbinding documentary work.
The goal of the Forum of Estonian Jewry “Jahad” is to bring together Jewish people of all ages and from all over Estonia and provide them with a place and opportunity to share their views, opinions, questions and problems regarding all areas of Jewish life in Estonia in an open and friendly atmosphere.

“Jahad” is a great outlet for the Jewish Community of Estonia to inform not only its members, but also its guests and potential participants about its activities and encourage their participation in future community events. The Forum serves as an excellent dialogue platform for Russian- and Estonian-speaking Jews and promotes their mutual cooperation.

The 11th annual Jahad Conference, organised by the Jewish community of Estonia, took place in the resort of Pärnu on September 1-3, 2017. With the support of the European Jewish Fund, this edition was able to bring over 500 participants together from Estonia and beyond, including more than 100 children for a memorable week-end of lectures, concerts, workshops and lively discussions.

The programme included a Jewish film festival, which included a screening of the trilogy “Russian Jews” by renowned journalist and producer Leonid Parfyonov. The festival also featured a fascinating interactive session with Israeli film-maker Boris Maftsir, which followed the screening of his spellbinding documentary work.

Other highlights included a creative meeting with composer and pianist Avi Benjamin, who is a native of Tallinn, an open-air canvas painting session with artist Nellie Schatz, the presentation of a new textbook on Jewish history by beloved teacher Igor Talis, and a concert by the band Meidelah which combined a rebellious cabaret style with theatrical skill and a gentle Jewish voice.

The children’s programme was equally varied, featuring sport games, art, dance and music, as well as educational activities organised by a young team of volunteers from the Jewish community of Estonia.

With safety in mind, all Jahad participants were introduced to the Jewish Security App (JSA) Octopus, developed by the Security and Crisis Centre by the European Jewish Congress (SACC by EJC).

The conference also coincided with the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the Republic of Estonia. As a birthday gift to the country, participants of the Jahad gathered together on the street and performed a Flash Mob entitled “Estonia 100”.
SUMMER U
EUJS

The European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) brought together hundreds of young Jews from across Europe and beyond for a week of learning, connecting and fun. In its 34th edition, Summer U remains one of Europe’s most successful annual Jewish youth programs and a life-long memory for the thousands of people who have participated over the last decades. As with all EUJS programmes, Summer U is organised by students, for students putting action to the words: youth empowerment.

And youth empowerment it was! 30+ volunteers from all over Europe worked together to create an incredible program for their peers, and over 350 participants from 31 countries got to develop their skills, their knowledge, and their understanding of how their Jewish identities can manifest themselves in all areas of life.

Taking place on the beautiful island of Lefkada in Greece, participants received expert sessions by more than 20 guest speakers along the tracks of advocacy, professional development and fundraising. They also engaged in fruitful debates about their student organisations and got acquainted with opportunities for involvement all around the world. Most importantly, they developed a stronger sense of community, of belonging and of engagement.
Through these sessions, participants discovered that their passions and commitments can have a social impact; they reflected upon the challenges faced by Jewish communities across Europe, they felt their potential to be part of the solution to these challenges, and to articulate their commitment so that others are inspired to invest in their mission.

Beyond the formal sessions, Summer U featured a series of sports, arts and fun activities, included the EUJS Maccabi Games, several dance classes, Yoga morning sessions, a Krav Maga workshop, a movie night and themed parties.

Summer U was also a great opportunity for Jewish youth in Europe to get acquainted with Greece’s rich Jewish history and its ancient Jewish community. Participants were joined for an atmospheric Kabbalat Shabbat by Vice-President of the Central Board of Jewish Community in Greece Benjamin Albalas. Another highlight was a fascinating presentation by historian and EUJS alumnus Leon Saltiel on the history of Greece.

Highest standards were implemented to ensure the security for participants, guests and volunteers of Summer U. Special partnership with SACC by EJC enabled the volunteers and participants to learn about their own security and they were trained on how to use the Jewish Security Application (JSA).

Summer U is a unique opportunity for young Jews to come in contact with new and exciting faces from Jewish communities throughout Europe. Many young people are first exposed to EUJS through Summer U and when they learn about the organisation’s other activities (activism, advocacy, diplomacy) they are keen to get further involved with Jewish and European issues.

Through the support of the European Jewish Fund, Summer U remains an essential forum for young Jews across Europe to connect with each other and with their Jewish identity, to improve their skills and to be inspired to become active and to work together towards ensuring that Jewish life in Europe continues to thrive.
The Jewish community of Serbia conducted a survey of Jewish households in the country. The objective was to gather comprehensive and accurate demographic and household data, to update the available data regarding community members, and to assess important indicators for the community, such as knowledge about community services and activities, participation in community life and perceptions of the services offered by the community.

With the support of the EJF, the survey was successfully conducted in nine constituent communities of Serbia. All local survey coordinators contacted households and scheduled a researcher’s visit to conduct the survey. The project engaged a total of 41 researchers for all communities, organised by six local coordinators. All completed survey questionnaires were entered by local coordinators in local Jewish communities and processed in the software the Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia had made on cloud. Once the survey data was collected, it was uploaded into a database, with due regard to the privacy of all respondents.
The second Limmud Helsinki conference was held on January 28-29, 2017. The initiative was conceived in January 2015 as an idea to bring the enthusiasm and togetherness that Limmud events generate to the Finnish capital.

The steering group from the Jewish community of Helsinki set out to find a very eclectic group of volunteers, each one different, each one with his or her unique outreach of Jewish friends and acquaintances, some with experience in attending other Limmud conferences. Although there were no experts on board at the beginning of the project, the team honed its skills in the very first Limmud Helsinki in January 2016, which was a great success.

After another full year of preparations, the organising team was delighted to greet a highly-motivated group of 300 participants. Considering that the Jewish population of Finland is about 1500 people, this was a very large group, exceeding expectations.

Lecturers for this edition included Jay Ruderman, Michael Freund, Keith and Deborah Kahn-Harris, Yahya Mahamid, and Yvonne Kozlovski-Golan to name but a few, in addition to many local contributors. The event lasted from Saturday night until Sunday evening and participants were offered a programme consisting of lectures, workshops, presentations and music performances around Jewish life and Jewish identity, mainly in English and Finnish.

Reflecting on the conference, many participants reported that the event was the best Jewish event they had ever attended in Finland, and that the event had left them inspired and invigorated, filled with thirst for more Jewish knowledge. Through the support of the European Jewish Fund, a young and dynamic team was able to develop an unforgettable event that brought the community of Helsinki closer together in the spirit of Jewish learning.
The Fund supports projects promoting positive aspects of Jewish life while also standing-up against threats to Jewish culture and heritage. The EJF also continues to address assimilation through funding and supporting programmes that make a range of Jewish activity accessible to all and that develop pride in Judaism and in Jewish culture past, present and future.
The Yom Yerushalaim project consisted of two events held in Rome commemorating fifty years of the reunification of Jerusalem. The aim of the project was to present Jerusalem as a city of light, culture and art, creation and innovation - significant not only for Israel itself but also for the entire world.

Most people are unaware of the city’s growth over years, of its world-class academic institutions, or of the fact that it is a model of integration between different cultures. The Yom Yerushalaim project was organised with the idea of Jerusalem as a dream and hope for peace - as a bridge, not a wall, between different civilizations, people and religions. This philosophy is also reflected in the way people have worked on the project as a team, in productive and creative process of interaction between minds, bringing together artists and scholars in various fields, both from Italy and from Israel.

The project chose the following quote from the Tanakh as a motto for all of the events and celebrations: “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her” (Isaiah 66:10).

The first event, the concert “Sounds and lights of Jerusalem under the stars of Rome” was held on May 23, 2017 at Trajan’s Market in Rome. The show was conceived as a mosaic of different performances and different art forms: literature, music, dance, art, film, narrating the history of Jerusalem through a collage of quotations from historical texts: the Tanakh, the Talmud, literature and song. The event sought to create a narrative bridge between Rome and Jerusalem - two ancient cities/civilizations that have proven capable of inheriting, transforming and giving new life to their respective cultural traditions, each contributing to the creation of the Europe we know today. The connection between the two cities dates back to ancient times. The Romans were not simply the agents of exile and slavery for Israel, Julius Caesar respected and protected the Jewish community of Rome, allowing Rome’s Jews to practice their religion freely.

The second event, “Jerusalem: From the top of the Mount Scopus” was a full-day conference on various themes. The event was held on May 28, 2017 at the Pitigliani Italian Jewish Community Centre. In order to create a link to the atmosphere of the artistic event at Trajan’s Market the conference opened with a short concert by pianist Antonio Cama and a reading by the poet Oreste Bisazza Terracini.
The Yom Yerushalaim project consisted of two events held in Rome commemorating fifty years of the reunification of Jerusalem. The aim of the project was to present Jerusalem as a city of light, culture and art, creation and innovation - significant not only for Israel itself but also for the entire world. Most people are unaware of the city's growth over years, of its world-class academic institutions, or of the fact that it is a model of integration between different cultures. The Yom Yerushalaim project was organised with the idea of Jerusalem as a dream and hope for peace - as a bridge, not a wall, between different civilizations, people and religions. This philosophy is also reflected in the way people have worked on the project as a team, in productive and creative process of interaction between minds, bringing together artists and scholars in various fields, both from Italy and from Israel.

The project chose the following quote from the Tanakh as a motto for all of the events and celebrations: “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her” (Isaiah 66:10).

The first event, the concert “Sounds and lights of Jerusalem under the stars of Rome” was held on May 23, 2017 at Trajan’s Market in Rome. The show was conceived as a mosaic of different performances and different art forms: literature, music, dance, art, film, narrating the history of Jerusalem through a collage of quotations from historical texts: the Tanakh, the Talmud, literature and song. The event sought to create a narrative bridge between Rome and Jerusalem - two ancient cities/civilizations that have proven capable of inheriting, transforming and giving new life to their respective cultural traditions, each contributing to the creation of the Europe we know today. The connection between the two cities dates back to ancient times. The Romans were not simply the agents of exile and slavery for Israel, Julius Caesar respected and protected the Jewish community of Rome, allowing Rome’s Jews to practice their religion freely.

The second event, “Jerusalem: From the top of the Mount Scopus” was a full-day conference on various themes. The event was held on May 28, 2017 at the Pitigliani Italian Jewish Community Centre. In order to create a link to the atmosphere of the artistic event at Trajan’s Market the conference opened with a short concert by pianist Antonio Cama and a reading by the poet Oreste Bisazza Terracini.

In keeping with the traditional Jewish view of the past as pertaining to the present and the future as well, the event started with the present, focusing on the revolutionary developments, which have taken place in Jerusalem in the last years in the field of innovation and high-tech. The event proceeded with a focus on its rich past (Talmud, history, archaeology) and finally to the present with contemporary art and architecture.

The morning session was dedicated to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, one of Israel’s finest and most prestigious institutions of higher learning at the vanguard of innovative research. As professor Hillel Berkovier underscored, “To transmit knowledge, but most of all to create new knowledge, that is the mission the founders of our university promoted, the challenge that has been inherited by new generations, taking the university to the highest level”. In the words of H.E. Amb. Ofer Sachs, Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Italy, “Being a multicultural city, open to the exchange of different ideas is part of what makes Jerusalem so attractive for new talents”.

The event ended with the screening of the documentary Ben Gurion, Epilogue (2016), by Yariv Mozer. This was the film’s first screening of the film in Italy, and for this occasion it was subtitled in Italian.
The exhibition “Swiss Jews - 150 Years of Equality” organised by the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG) consisted of an exhibition of fifteen portraits of Jewish personalities which demonstrate the diversity of Jews and Judaism in Switzerland. The exhibition was displayed in different cities in the Ticino, the only majority Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland, between March and April 2017.

The photographer Alexander Jaquemet succeeded in an impressive way to portray young and old, religious and secular, known and unknown Jews from all parts of Switzerland with pictures that told stories of (fulfilled) dreams and longings and affection for the homeland. The portraits were powerful and compelling showing that the photographed individuals who reflected the plurality of the Jewish population in Switzerland live with and alongside us. They were shown in their own environment, thereby clearly demonstrating that Jews are an integral part of Swiss society.

The opening event in Lugano was attended by more than 200 people, and addressed by the Governor of Ticino and the Mayor of Lugano. In Bellinzona, the exhibition was showed in the public patio of the town hall with thousands of people passing by.

Whilst seeking to encourage the exchange between Jewish communities and between the SIG and its member communities and informing the public against prejudice, racism and antisemitism, the event focused in particular on reactivating Judaism in the Ticino and reaching out to the hundreds of Jews living there. The event was very successful in this respect, with the SIG being able to establish a tight relationship with the small Jewish communities of the region.
The Youth of 1948 has a mission to capture the memories of the generation that witnessed the rebirth of a sovereign Jewish State in the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people. This unique and historical archive needs to be recorded now as this generation is disappearing.

The project consists primarily of a set of interviews with the men and women who built the State of Israel and who fought in the War of Independence so that the Jewish people, almost 70 years later could have a homeland. Some of the interviewees, such as Ruth Dayan, Haim Gouri and Rafi Eitan are famous, while others could be anyone’s Safta or Saba.

The project has three components. The first is a documentary based on these unique interviews, introducing the people, the period, the war of independence, and the creation of the State of Israel. The documentary will be premiered on Yom Ha’atzmaut 2018, with the recordings to be donated to the National Library Archives in Jerusalem.

The second component of the project is a photo exhibit with 24 portraits of the Youth of 1948 by celebrated New York photographer Aviva Klein. The exhibit is a photographic journey introducing what was once The Youth of 1948. Aviva Klein captures their dignity and achievements, their vision and heritage in each of her portraits. Finally, the third component consists of an educational package available on the project’s website* featuring all information of the Youth of 1948 project along five themes featured in the documentary.

These themes are: 1) war and existence, the view of the children; 2) Aliyah Bet: issues of illegal immigration, then and now; 3) Jerusalem under siege: history, experience and memory; 4) Jewish life underground: the distinctions between guerilla warfare and terrorism; 5) minorities fighting for Israel.

The Youth of 1948 will become part of the Israel Memory Project.

---

ZIPPY PORATH
Born in Brooklyn, NY, USA on August 1st, 1923.

As the winner of an essay contest, Zippy embarked on a ship to go study in Israel for a year. ‘Little did I know I would arrive at the right time in history’. Zippy wrote letters home recounting her adventures during the siege of Jerusalem; ‘When I completed my first aid course, the very next morning the Ben Yehuda bombing happened. In Jerusalem, with all the low buildings every single big explosion was heard as if it happened behind the corner. So I took my armband and put it on saying, ‘Magen David Adom. I marched through the cordons, the ‘protectors of Jerusalem’, linking arms and holding crowds back. I yelled ‘Let me through I am a nurse. You see every hand was needed’. Because of my English I was seen as the enemy. I got very mad and somehow got through. But after I got through I could not find any first aid station. So I set one up. With my red lipstick I drew a Magen David Adom on a doorpost and in 5 minutes I was in business. I started treating the injured and I collected children looking for their parents.’

---

Noemi Schlosser, Artistic Director & Founder
The Jewish Youth Theatre project unites different generations around the study of Jewish culture and tradition through theatre, with the mission of establishing new creative ground for the Jewish community in Sumy (Ukraine).

In choosing a theme for the performances, the organisers sought to reflect the versatility of Jewish culture. After long discussions, they settled on Yoshua Sobol’s play “Ghetto”. The play tells about another theatre troupe, that of the Vilna ghetto. It was their performances on the edge of life and death, which gave others joy and strength, instilled in them the illusion of normality and the faith in salvation.

The central focus of the performance lay on expressing the strength and the power of Jewish nation, which in spite of all difficulties unites as one, supporting each other and overcoming adversity together.
The project was an unprecedented opportunity for the amateur troupe of Sumy Jewish Youth Theatre to work together with professionals such as Honoured Artist of Ukraine Semyon Nemirovsky and violinist Vladimir Naroditsky. Working in tandem with people with firsthand experience in professional theatre, complementing each other and learning from each other, not only resulted in a series of outstanding performances, but led to the theatre troupe becoming the heart of the community.

Through the EJF grant, the Jewish Youth Theatre was able to perform in different cities across Ukraine.

In the city of Sumy itself, the troupe performed to a packed audience, which included guests from the municipal and regional governments, as well as representatives of other Ukrainian Jewish communities. Similarly, in the city of Poltava, the performance was very well received.

Two more performances by the Jewish Youth Theatre are planned, scheduled for the cities of Kharkov and Kiev.
On September 17, 2017, the Day of Jewish Culture “Autumn Holidays” was held in Minsk, Belarus, at one of the most high-profile open-air venues next to the Minsk City Hall.

The celebration which took place on the eve of the Rosh Hashanah allowed Minsk residents and visitors to learn more about the country’s Jewish community, the history and heritage of the Jewish people.
Guests could enjoy multiple exhibitions dedicated to the history of Judaism and Jews in Belarus. Paintings by Jewish artists, photographs in the framework of the “Jewish Portrait” project, “Jewish Dolls” and “Creativity Is Life” exhibits were on display.

Participants could taste and buy Jewish dishes, take Jewish cooking and challah baking classes, and buy souvenirs with Jewish symbols. Children and adults had a great time taking part in interactive activities, quizzes on Jewish culture, traditions and history, and taking pictures at various photo zones. Event organisers gave everyone a chance to deliver their notes to the Western Wall. The guests of the Jewish Culture Day attended various workshops to learn Hebrew, cook matzah, sew dolls and do many other things. On top of this, they watched Shofar performance and the Sefer Torah writing.

The Day of Jewish Culture also provided a platform for Jewish organisations in Belarus to present their activities, talk about Jewish holidays, and demonstrate their most valuable moments of Jewish life.

The highlight of the Festival was a concert that unfolded simultaneously on two stages. Best Jewish bands and performers from Belarus and Israel entertained the guests on the main stage. Singers from the Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Republic of Belarus performed Jewish songs. Musical bands expressing Jewish themes in their music as well as children and professional dance groups performing Jewish dances received the warmest welcome. The second stage featured Jewish-themed theatricals and short comedy plays. Popular Belarusian TV and radio anchors Evgeny Perlin and Evgeny Bulka acted as MCs. Special guest from Israel, DJ Tuka performed in the finale.

In 2017, the Jewish Culture Day brought together nearly 5,000 people, including representatives of diplomatic corps, Belorussian public institutions, various faiths, and Jewish leaders. The Jewish Culture Day, which comprehensively presented the Jewish culture, was a bright and happy event in the life of the city of Minsk and the Jewish community.
On December 17, 2017 the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities held the traditional annual Chanukah Gala Concert dedicated to a joyful holiday of Miracle at the premises of the Belarusian State Philharmonic Society.

Amateur Jewish musical bands from various parts of Belarus and professional musicians participated in this concert. “Diligence Jazz” band, folk Jewish music group “Shalom”, representatives of the Belarusian Jewish community, dancing groups and opera singers took the stage on that evening.

Well-known Belarusian actors Marina Gritsuk and Ivan Vabishchevich were the hosts of the concert.

First time in Belarus, the festival included the international contest of Chanukah photos called “The Light of Jewish Soul”. An international jury comprised of representatives of Belarus, Israel and Germany selected the best photos, which
were exhibited later. During the concert, the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities awarded certificates of honour to the contest winners in “Light” and “Soul” nominations.

Minsk residents, members of the Jewish community from Baranovichi, Soligorsk, Borisov, Slutsk and representatives of diplomatic delegations in Belarus attended the concert. Chairman of the Union of Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities Vladimir Chernitsky, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Belarus Alon Shoham, Director of the Jewish Agency for Israel in Belarus Ilana Lomkin, Deputy Head of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s branch in Belarus Natalia Malets congratulated the audience and the Belarusian Jewish community on Chanukah. Vladimir Chernitsky also expressed his gratitude to the sponsors of this event led by the European Jewish Fund.

Chanukah has become a symbol of the victory of light over darkness, the victory of good over evil, a symbol of miracle. The Chanukah Gala Concert in Minsk was a reflection of this idea.
The EJF focuses especially on young people and connecting them to their Jewish peers. It supports a range of educational and leadership programmes that reinforce Jewish identity and foster pride in religion, culture and sense of community.

The supported projects are often dedicated to educating our young people about Jewish achievements in all aspects of life, ranging from culture to science and to medicine.
Through the EJF grant, the Federation of Jewish communities of Spain (FCJE) has developed a strategy to coordinate national activities for children and young adults and to help small Jewish communities.

It is essential to provide Jewish education in small communities where it is difficult to keep a structure that can guarantee the continuity of the community and prevent further assimilation. Emphasis has been placed on national activities that bring together more participants and help those families who do not have the opportunity to participate in socio-educational activities on a daily basis. This strategy has three components: 1) a National Education Programme 2) a specialised Jewish education programme for small communities 3) Antisemitism and Shoah education.

**National Education Programme**

The National Education Programme consists of three activities. Firstly, the Hadracha College was held in Malaga from 08 to 10 April 2016. A total of 70 participants from the Jewish Communities of Spain spent three very intense and enriching days together, at an event which excelled in the quality and level of the peulot. Within the framework of the seminar, madrichim learnt about various topics related to Jewish Identity, Tnuot, Zionism, recreation, Judaism, and leadership. A follow-up seminar took place in Barcelona, on November 4-6, 2016. This was followed by the European Maccabi Football Trophy (Sepharad Trophy), which took place during the weekend of June 16-19, 2016 on the Costa del Sol, and was organised by Maccabi Spain. This is a biennial event for young adults that takes place every two years in European cities and this time Spain had the honour to welcome it. With almost 150 participants, this edition of the trophy was the biggest ever. All delegations were able to enjoy a pleasant weekend with a great atmosphere, full of unforgetable moments, such as the lovely Shabbat dinner celebrated together among friends.

Finally, the annual National summer camp took place in in Llinars del Valles, from July 10-19 in a spectacular setting, bringing together more than 140 chanichim, as well as 17 madrichim, not only from Spain, but also from Israel, France and other countries. The Summer Camp was a success in every way, offering a variety of activities, excursions. It was delightful for parents to see the children return home with a smile.
Through the EJF grant, the Federation of Jewish communities of Spain (FCJE) has developed a strategy to coordinate national activities for children and young adults and to help small Jewish communities. It is essential to provide Jewish education in small communities where it is difficult to keep a structure that can guarantee the continuity of the community and prevent further assimilation. Emphasis has been placed on national activities that bring together more participants and help those families who do not have the opportunity to participate in socio-educational activities on a daily basis. This strategy has three components: 1) a National Education Programme 2) a specialised Jewish education programme for small communities 3) Antisemitism and Shoah education.

National Education Programme

The National Education Programme consists of three activities. Firstly, the Hadracha College was held in Malaga from 08 to 10 April 2016. A total of 70 participants from the Jewish Communities of Spain spent three very intense and enriching days together, at an event which excelled in the quality and level of the peulot. Within the framework of the seminar, madrichim learnt about various topics related to Jewish Identity, Tnuot, Zionism, recreation, Judaism, and leadership. A follow-up seminar took place in Barcelona, on November 4-6, 2016. This was followed by the European Maccabi Football Trophy (Sepharad Trophy), which took place during the weekend of June 16-19, 2016 on the Costa del Sol, and was organised by Maccabi Spain. This is a biennial event for young adults that takes place every two years in European cities and this time Spain had the honour to welcome it. With almost 150 participants, this edition of the trophy was the biggest ever. All delegations were able to enjoy a pleasant weekend with a great atmosphere, full of unforgettable moments, such as the lovely Shabbat dinner celebrated together among friends. Finally, the annual National summer camp took place in Llinars del Valles, from July 10-19 in a spectacular setting, bringing together more than 140 chanichim, as well as 17 madrichim, not only from Spain, but also from Israel, France and other countries. The Summer Camp was a success in every way, offering a variety of activities, excursions. It was delightful for parents to see the children return home with a smile.

Jewish Education for small communities

As a result of the communal structure in the country, small Jewish communities in Spain require special support in order to promote a strong Jewish identity, provide Jewish education and prevent assimilation.

After assessing the projects submitted by several small communities and the situation that these communities face, it was decided that the project would focus on the communities of Valencia and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

In Valencia, classes of Modern Hebrew, Torah afternoons and an introduction to Judaism were provided for children, young people and adults. Although the community is small, its members are very active and there is continuous activity in all areas.

Similarly, the Jewish Community of Las Palmas de Gran Canarias has a membership of about 100, with a synagogue and a Jewish cemetery. Given the precarious situation of this community, support was focused on maintaining existing cultural and religious activities.

Antisemitism and Shoah Education

The Observatory on Antisemitism in Spain publishes an annual report with the antisemitic acts that were registered in the past year. In 2016, the monument in memory of the victims of the Shoah in the city of Oviedo was destroyed. In November 2016, a new monument was inaugurated and FCJE collaborated in the activities.

During 2016, FCJE also worked together with the NGO Movimiento contra la Intolerancia to provide Shoah education in schools, and with the NGO Observatory on Antisemitism to take part in a seminar at Yad Vashem.
The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) was very successful this year in bringing to fruition, from 16 to 29 July, 2017, the third consecutive ISGAP-Oxford Summer Institute on Curriculum Development in Critical Antisemitism Studies. Held at St. John’s College, University of Oxford, the Summer Institute built upon the traditions of the past two years’ work while also expanding and enriching some of the original features of the summer programme. Ongoing features have meant the inclusion of a diverse group of international professors and scholars to explore rigorously varied and urgent issues and topics related to contemporary global antisemitism. Two new features of this year entail the inclusion of undergraduate students, as well as the use of former scholars-in-residence in ISGAP’s roster of formal Summer Institute presenters.
Throughout the 2017 Summer Institute which was realised with the support of the European Jewish Fund, scholars-in-residence participated in intensive sessions aimed at raising awareness around the problem of contemporary global antisemitism and policy and inviting scholarly interventions and critiques around the same issues.

The two weeks were intensive, consisting of an average of 9 hours (daily), by design down from a previous yearly average of about 12 hours daily, of rigorous, sustained and iterative collegial peer-to-peer engagement around such issues.

The Summer Institute benefitted from combining the top-down and bottom-up approaches. While the majority of the presentations were lectures, which were delivered by scholars who had been invited by ISGAP to present to the third year cohorts. Conversely, the 2017 cohort showed unusual initiative and arranged for an evening of intramural sharing, completely conceptualised and organised in real time at Oxford by the scholars-in-residence, and all related to their own work on topics related to antisemitism. Approximately seven or eight of the 2017 scholars-in-residence devoted an additional two and half hours one evening to sharing their research, via PowerPoint, amidst wine, fruit, chocolates and cheese, and the great interest, critiques, and overall enthusiasm of their peers.

During both weeks of the ISGAP Summer Institute, certain sessions also included opportunities for pedagogical reflection, planning and collaboration with regard to curricular content and planned instructional delivery. In keeping with what has now become some of an ISGAP Summer Institute tradition, the 2017 scholars-in-residence travelled together from Oxford to London in order to visit the CST and to hear first-hand about how the practice of combatting antisemitism in Britain and elsewhere is managed by professionals, government officials, and non-governmental organizations. The 2017 excursion also included a visit to the Henry Jackson Society where scholars-in-residence were also engaged on matters related to extremism, violence, and contemporary global antisemitism.

Part of the ongoing genius of the ISGAP Summer Institute on Curriculum Development in Antisemitism Studies is not only its ground-breaking and rigorous foci, but also its room for innovation and scaffolding (e.g., scholars-in-residence as subsequent presenters; inclusion of undergraduates; room for peer-directed presentations in Oxford, etc.), its wide-reaching global inclusiveness and the international and multicultural nature of its participants.

The scholars-in-residence in the 2017 ISGAP Summer Institute came from numerous demographics. In terms of countries, they came, for example, from the U.S., Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Colombia, France, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Russia, Nigeria, Germany, Poland, Ukraine, etc.

ISGAP’s mission is both vitally important and challenging, for it continues to be, in part, to issue a clarion call, to break taboos in the academy, and to advance high calibre scholarship in the emerging field of Critical Contemporary Antisemitism Studies. In short, the ISGAP Summer Institute in 2017 was a tremendous success, and the strategic and associations created therein will undoubtedly help to grow the great reach of the scholarly, political and moral work of ISGAP.
As one of the European Jewish Fund’s flagship initiatives, the EJF Leadership Programme at the Paideia Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden combines academic excellence with creativity and passion in order to create a network of dynamic and knowledgeable Jewish leaders keen on contributing to the flourishing of Jewish life in Europe.
The project has two components, Leadership Development within the Paideia One-Year Jewish Studies Programme, and the development of concrete action in the Project-Incubator.

The 2016/17 academic year saw 8 fellows from 6 different countries take part in the EJF Leadership Programme. In addition to the regular course of study at Paideia, which is an intensive immersion into Jewish text, language and culture, they were engaged in a curriculum of courses in leadership, project development and pedagogical courses, as well as focusing on individual projects. This year’s fellows graduated in March 2017 in the attendance of ambassadors from their home countries.

The Paideia Project-Incubator remains Europe's leading programme for fostering social innovation in the Jewish sphere. Each year, Paideia recruits individuals with great ideas for European Jewish culture, providing them with the support, the tools and the community to be able to achieve their goals.

Over 200 projects for European Jewish life and culture have been developed at Paideia through the One-Year Program and the Project-Incubator, having an outreach of at least 300,000 people. These projects span a wide variety of genres, from education to online media, from theatre to community outreach, from charity to academic journals. A comprehensive survey of the Project-Incubator graduates from 2016 shows that around 75% of all projects that came to the program were eventually implemented and 95% of these say that the program was instrumental to realizing their project.

No less than 17 graduates from the EJF Leadership Programme joined over 100 Paideia graduates at the 2017 alumni conference, which took place in Berlin at the Jewish Museum and the University of Potsdam in June 2017. Paideia continues to be an engine of Jewish cultural and academic renewal, providing individuals with the skills necessary to become leaders in their communities and to reinforce their connectedness with the Jewish people.
The third edition of EUJS’ annual EU-Activism seminar took place on February 5-9, 2017 in Brussels.

EUJS offers the unique opportunity to experience international institutions at first-hand and empowers students to raise their voices within these platforms and to communicate the challenges facing young European Jews to decision-makers.

One objective of the seminar is to teach young Jews about the division of competences in the European Union, the roles and responsibilities of parliamentary groups and intergroups, the importance of interpersonal relationships within an official framework, the reach and limitations of EU authority, and the balance between the intergovernmental and Union methods. Crucially, participants learn to formulate strategies to effectively advocate on Jewish issues, not only at the EU level, but also at the national and local level.

The EU Activism Seminar also seeks to identify the next generation of Jewish leaders, and to provide them with an in-depth understanding of the institutional mechanisms within the EU and to interact with other young Jewish leaders, as well as with a variety of professionals, MEPs and diplomatic staff.

Discussions focused this year on issues such as the perception of the State of Israel by actors in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European External Action Service, the rise of populism and its consequences to the rule of law in Europe, the implications thereof for Jewish communities, and the recent troubling UNESCO resolutions on Jerusalem.

Following an interactive method, students are encouraged to engage with leaders and decision-makers. In order to present the broad political spectrum that is represented at the European Parliament, participants met MEPs from four major European political parties - Fulvio Martusciello (Italy-EPP); Péter Niedermüller (Hungary-S&D); Miltiadis Kyrkos (Greece-S&D); Bas Belder (Netherlands-ECR); and Terry Reintke (Germany-Greens).

Furthermore, participants learnt from senior representatives of the European Jewish Congress about the necessity of engaging with the EU institutions and advocating for Jewish issues, and about the current priorities on Jewish issues in Europe, such as the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.
The third edition of EUJS’ annual EU-Activism seminar took place on February 5-9, 2017 in Brussels. EUJS offers the unique opportunity to experience international institutions at first-hand and empowers students to raise their voices within these platforms and to communicate the challenges facing young European Jews to decision-makers.

One objective of the seminar is to teach young Jews about the division of competences in the European Union, the roles and responsibilities of parliamentary groups and intergroups, the importance of interpersonal relationships within an official framework, the reach and limitations of EU authority, and the balance between the intergovernmental and Union methods. Crucially, participants learn to formulate strategies to effectively advocate on Jewish issues, not only at the EU level, but also at the national and local level.

The EU Activism Seminar also seeks to identify the next generation of Jewish leaders, and to provide them with an in-depth understanding of the institutional mechanisms within the EU and to interact with other young Jewish leaders, as well as with a variety of professionals, MEPs and diplomatic staff.

Discussions focused this year on issues such as the perception of the State of Israel by actors in the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European External Action Service, the rise of populism and its consequences to the rule of law in Europe, the implications thereof for Jewish communities, and the recent troubling UNESCO resolutions on Jerusalem.

Following an interactive method, students are encouraged to engage with leaders and decision-makers. In order to present the broad political spectrum that is represented at the European Parliament, participants met MEPs from four major European political parties - Fulvio Martusciello (Italy-EPP); Péter Niedermüller (Hungary-S&D); Miltiadis Kyrkos (Greece-S&D); Bas Belder (Netherlands-ECR); and Terry Reintke (Germany-Greens).

Furthermore, participants learnt from senior representatives of the European Jewish Congress about the necessity of engaging with the EU institutions and advocating for Jewish issues, and about the current priorities on Jewish issues in Europe, such as the adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

The group met as well with American diplomats in charge of bilateral relations with Belgium, with the leadership of CCOJB, the Belgian national representative Jewish organisation, and the European Youth Forum, and with several young Jewish Professionals working in and around the EU institutions who related their experiences and offered valuable advice.

Another essential objective of the seminar is to give input to decision makers about the challenges facing young European Jews today. Students had the opportunity to speak to representatives of the European Commission on issues such as cyberbullying as a new frontier of antisemitism and the effects of BDS on campus.

The programme also included attending the screening of the film ‘Liga Terezin’ within the framework of the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism. The film was a poignant exploration of memory and loss viewed through the prism of football. During the Q&A session, one participant from Austria told a moving personal story about survivors in his direct family. This prompted an Austrian MEP present at the session to commit to supporting initiatives in Austria to fight antisemitism through sport.

EUJS’ EU Activism Seminar has consistently shown strong quantifiable effects in fostering the engagement of Jewish youth, with participants frequently moving on to leadership positions within Jewish youth organisations (including EUJS itself), as well as careers in Jewish advocacy and at the European institutions. Moreover, participants routinely report being inspired to become more active in advocating for issues that affect Jewish youth and their local communities.

Through the support of the European Jewish Fund, EUJS continues to offer an exceptional avenue for young Jewish leaders to get involved in shaping the future of European Jewry and to be the change they want to see in the world.
The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, inaugurated in May 2010 at Tel Aviv University, provides an academic framework for the interdisciplinary research of European Jewry from the end of World War II until the present day.

The Center includes the Moshe Kantor database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism and cooperates with the program for the study of Jews in Arab Lands, and with the Wiener collection and Library, both in Tel Aviv University.

The Center offers a platform for the diverse needs of researchers, students, governmental and civil service personnel, professionals, activists and the public at large, both in Israel and abroad, and cooperates with academic and state agencies and institutes, and with Jewish communities and their leaders worldwide.

The Center initiates, encourages and coordinates research projects, conferences, seminars, publications and public events in the following areas: demographic processes and their ramifications; legislation against racism, hate crimes and hate speech, and antisemitism (particularly Holocaust Denial); mutual contacts between Jewish communities and their leaders and the local societies and other minorities; preserving the national memory and communal legacy, and its implications on the present-day; monitoring, analysis and study of contemporary antisemitism and racism worldwide.

The Center’s staff has participated in local and international conferences (EU, IHRA, IAJLJ), presented the annual antisemitism worldwide report that received wide media coverage, and published a number of academic publications.
Selected activities in 2017

- In mid-January, Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center was asked to assist the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres with his speech on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

- On January 22, Prof. Porat participated in a special session of the Israeli government on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. During the session, the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs handed to the government a report on antisemitism in 2016 that was prepared in cooperation with the Kantor Center.

- On February 7, the Kantor Center took part in the presentation of the “The Rosenberg Files – The Federal Ministry of Justice and the Nazi Past” at TAU. Ayelet Shaked, Minister of Justice of Israel, Heiko Maas, German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, and Prof. Raanan Rein, Vice President of the Tel Aviv University, also participated in the event, that was chaired by Prof. Porat.

- On April 20, President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin was presented with the book In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah, edited by Dina Porat, Ruth Braude and Karma Ben Yohanan (Tel Aviv, 2015). The book was presented to Pope Francis in Rome earlier in 2017 by Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress.

- On April 23, the Kantor Center released its Annual Report on Worldwide Antisemitism 2016 at a press conference held at the Tel Aviv University. The event received worldwide press coverage. The Annual Report showed two parallel and contradicting trends in 2016: one is the continuance of a notable decrease (by 12%) in the number of incidents, especially the violent ones, in most countries, mainly in several central ones, in which a large Jewish population resides. The other trend is the continuation of the widespread increase, sometimes dramatic, in verbal and visual antisemitism on social media and during demonstrations, in insults, harassments and threats hurled at people that cannot be quantified.

- On April 24, the Kantor Center in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot and the Alfred P. Slainer Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism held an event at TAU in memory of the late Dr. Felix Zandman. A full-house screening of the documentary movie Shalom Italia (in Hebrew – Three Brothers in a Cave) was held. The movie was written, directed and produced by Tamar Tal Anati.

- On June 14-15, the Center organized a conference marking the World Refugee Day at the Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the Middle Eastern and African Studies Department and the Law Faculty’s Refugees Rights Program, the Ruppin Academic Center, UNHCR (the UN High Commission for Refugees). The conference also celebrated the launch of “Legislating for Equality, Volume III: Africa”, that is endorsed by UNESCO. The then Director General Irina Bokova wrote an introduction to the volume.

- On October 22-24, the Kantor Center held the 13th biennial TAU seminar on antisemitism in Zurich, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Zurich-based Audiature Foundation, headed by Dr. Josef Bollag and supported by Dr. Axel Stawski from New York. More than 40 scholars and activists from about 25 countries dealt with the “Jewish Communities Confronting New Political and Social Changes”.

- On January 22, Prof. Porat participated in a special session of the Israeli government on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. During the session, the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs handed to the government a report on antisemitism in 2016 that was prepared in cooperation with the Kantor Center.

- On February 7, the Kantor Center took part in the presentation of the “The Rosenberg Files – The Federal Ministry of Justice and the Nazi Past” at TAU. Ayelet Shaked, Minister of Justice of Israel, Heiko Maas, German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, and Prof. Raanan Rein, Vice President of the Tel Aviv University, also participated in the event, that was chaired by Prof. Porat.

- On April 20, President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin was presented with the book In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah, edited by Dina Porat, Ruth Braude and Karma Ben Yohanan (Tel Aviv, 2015). The book was presented to Pope Francis in Rome earlier in 2017 by Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress.

- On April 23, the Kantor Center released its Annual Report on Worldwide Antisemitism 2016 at a press conference held at the Tel Aviv University. The event received worldwide press coverage. The Annual Report showed two parallel and contradicting trends in 2016: one is the continuance of a notable decrease (by 12%) in the number of incidents, especially the violent ones, in most countries, mainly in several central ones, in which a large Jewish population resides. The other trend is the continuation of the widespread increase, sometimes dramatic, in verbal and visual antisemitism on social media and during demonstrations, in insults, harassments and threats hurled at people that cannot be quantified.

- On April 24, the Kantor Center in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot and the Alfred P. Slainer Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism held an event at TAU in memory of the late Dr. Felix Zandman. A full-house screening of the documentary movie Shalom Italia (in Hebrew – Three Brothers in a Cave) was held. The movie was written, directed and produced by Tamar Tal Anati.

- On June 14-15, the Center organized a conference marking the World Refugee Day at the Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the Middle Eastern and African Studies Department and the Law Faculty’s Refugees Rights Program, the Ruppin Academic Center, UNHCR (the UN High Commission for Refugees). The conference also celebrated the launch of “Legislating for Equality, Volume III: Africa”, that is endorsed by UNESCO. The then Director General Irina Bokova wrote an introduction to the volume.

- On October 22-24, the Kantor Center held the 13th biennial TAU seminar on antisemitism in Zurich, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Zurich-based Audiature Foundation, headed by Dr. Josef Bollag and supported by Dr. Axel Stawski from New York. More than 40 scholars and activists from about 25 countries dealt with the “Jewish Communities Confronting New Political and Social Changes”.

- On February 7, the Kantor Center took part in the presentation of the “The Rosenberg Files – The Federal Ministry of Justice and the Nazi Past” at TAU. Ayelet Shaked, Minister of Justice of Israel, Heiko Maas, German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, and Prof. Raanan Rein, Vice President of the Tel Aviv University, also participated in the event, that was chaired by Prof. Porat.

- On April 20, President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin was presented with the book In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah, edited by Dina Porat, Ruth Braude and Karma Ben Yohanan (Tel Aviv, 2015). The book was presented to Pope Francis in Rome earlier in 2017 by Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress.

- On April 23, the Kantor Center released its Annual Report on Worldwide Antisemitism 2016 at a press conference held at the Tel Aviv University. The event received worldwide press coverage. The Annual Report showed two parallel and contradicting trends in 2016: one is the continuance of a notable decrease (by 12%) in the number of incidents, especially the violent ones, in most countries, mainly in several central ones, in which a large Jewish population resides. The other trend is the continuation of the widespread increase, sometimes dramatic, in verbal and visual antisemitism on social media and during demonstrations, in insults, harassments and threats hurled at people that cannot be quantified.

- On April 24, the Kantor Center in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot and the Alfred P. Slainer Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism held an event at TAU in memory of the late Dr. Felix Zandman. A full-house screening of the documentary movie Shalom Italia (in Hebrew – Three Brothers in a Cave) was held. The movie was written, directed and produced by Tamar Tal Anati.

- On June 14-15, the Center organized a conference marking the World Refugee Day at the Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the Middle Eastern and African Studies Department and the Law Faculty’s Refugees Rights Program, the Ruppin Academic Center, UNHCR (the UN High Commission for Refugees). The conference also celebrated the launch of “Legislating for Equality, Volume III: Africa”, that is endorsed by UNESCO. The then Director General Irina Bokova wrote an introduction to the volume.

- On October 22-24, the Kantor Center held the 13th biennial TAU seminar on antisemitism in Zurich, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Zurich-based Audiature Foundation, headed by Dr. Josef Bollag and supported by Dr. Axel Stawski from New York. More than 40 scholars and activists from about 25 countries dealt with the “Jewish Communities Confronting New Political and Social Changes”.

- On April 20, President of the State of Israel Reuven Rivlin was presented with the book In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah, edited by Dina Porat, Ruth Braude and Karma Ben Yohanan (Tel Aviv, 2015). The book was presented to Pope Francis in Rome earlier in 2017 by Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress.

- On April 23, the Kantor Center released its Annual Report on Worldwide Antisemitism 2016 at a press conference held at the Tel Aviv University. The event received worldwide press coverage. The Annual Report showed two parallel and contradicting trends in 2016: one is the continuance of a notable decrease (by 12%) in the number of incidents, especially the violent ones, in most countries, mainly in several central ones, in which a large Jewish population resides. The other trend is the continuation of the widespread increase, sometimes dramatic, in verbal and visual antisemitism on social media and during demonstrations, in insults, harassments and threats hurled at people that cannot be quantified.

- On April 24, the Kantor Center in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot and the Alfred P. Slainer Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism held an event at TAU in memory of the late Dr. Felix Zandman. A full-house screening of the documentary movie Shalom Italia (in Hebrew – Three Brothers in a Cave) was held. The movie was written, directed and produced by Tamar Tal Anati.

- On June 14-15, the Center organized a conference marking the World Refugee Day at the Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the Middle Eastern and African Studies Department and the Law Faculty’s Refugees Rights Program, the Ruppin Academic Center, UNHCR (the UN High Commission for Refugees). The conference also celebrated the launch of “Legislating for Equality, Volume III: Africa”, that is endorsed by UNESCO. The then Director General Irina Bokova wrote an introduction to the volume.

- On October 22-24, the Kantor Center held the 13th biennial TAU seminar on antisemitism in Zurich, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Zurich-based Audiature Foundation, headed by Dr. Josef Bollag and supported by Dr. Axel Stawski from New York. More than 40 scholars and activists from about 25 countries dealt with the “Jewish Communities Confronting New Political and Social Changes”. 
JEWISH INFORMATION AND OUTREACH CENTRE
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF DENMARK
n 2015, the Jewish Community of Denmark decided to establish The Jewish Information and Outreach Centre (JIC). The goal behind this initiative was to create a structured approach in reaching out to schools and NGOs and to educate them about the Jewish minority in Denmark, in order to combat antisemitism and religious intolerance by providing access to the Jewish life to non-Jews and to increase the general knowledge about Judaism and Jewish life in Denmark.

With the support of the European Jewish Fund, the JIC officially opened in the fall of 2016, creating a much needed platform to host school classes and other groups at the synagogue. Through this personal meeting with the Jewish tour guides in the Synagogue, the JIC strengthens pupils’ interest in and understanding of Jews, creates added value to existing school curricula and facilitates an increased tolerance towards the Jewish minority.

In 2016, 6695 pupils and 259 teachers visited the Synagogue. In addition to the visits, the JIC provided the opportunity for schools to be visited by a specially trained Jewish representative. These representatives have given talks to more than 3000 pupils in total. In parallel, the JIC engages in a more open and inclusive approach to the surrounding community. With the specific aim to educate and offer information, the JIC opens its doors to the public, NGOs, religious groups, and political party representatives.

Two separate programmes have been established to address antisemitism in the Muslim community. These programmes train young Jews and Muslims to speak out against antisemitism in schools, as it has a stronger impact when others speak out on behalf of Jews. The methodology used is based on non-formal education and several training components.

Since August 2016, 6 Jews and 6 Muslims, aged 25-35 have been trained as Dialogue Ambassadors to visit technical colleges in areas with a high density of Muslim youths. Furthermore, 11 Muslim and 11 Jews, aged 16-18 have been trained to speak with their peers as representatives of a group of youths who chose friendship over prejudice.

The JIC initiative also includes the development of an interactive online information platform (www.joediskinfo.dk) which can easily be shared with schools and other institutions. The page includes teaching resources such as: a) information about Judaism, faith, tradition and practices; b) Jewish history; c) Danish Jewish history; d) Danish Jewry in the 21st century; e) antisemitism and the Holocaust.

Information is offered through texts as well as – primarily – through video and other visual media. For this purpose, the JIC has produced a 360-degree film of the Synagogue; 4 video interviews with 7 Jewish youths about their life in Denmark; 3 short movies about a Jewish wedding, explaining similarities and differences in Jewish traditions; a tour of the synagogue guided by two Jewish youths; a movie about the Jewish participation in Copenhagen Pride; and a timeline covering the history of the Jewish community in Denmark.

The JIC has proved its value regarding its overall goals of standing up to antisemitism and demonstrating how a small Jewish community can play a proactive role in defining its role in society.
or the past 4 years, the successful “Youth Counsellor” programme has provided Jewish educational and cultural extracurricular activities for the young members of the Jewish community of Athens.

Following graduation from the Lauder school of Athens and their bar/bat mitzvot, children are at considerable risk of losing their connection to the community. Therefore, the Youth Counsellor Programme was put in place to nurture this bond.

Madrich Nir Zachar has been the main responsible for the project in the last two years. The activities of the Youth Counsellor programme include a trip to Israel to tour universities; a trip to Belgium for three members of the Youth Group as part of Hanoar Hatzioni’s Ken seminar; fun and educational activities for the Jewish holidays; and philanthropic and volunteering activities that encourage members of the Youth Group to donate their time and services to various organisations in Greece in the spirit of tikkun olam.

Through the EJF grant, the community has been able not only to ensure the continuity of the programme, but to professionalise it and expand it. Nir Zachar has returned to Israel to continue his studies. Nevertheless, a couple of young motivated Counsellors have taken over since summer 2017 and hope continue the wonderful work and the strong foundation for Jewish life that Nir placed for young Jews in Athens in order to sustain the community and to ensure its resilience in the future.
EJF is committed to promoting educational programmes that ensure the memory of the Shoah lives on and the lessons of the history are learnt.

The EJF helps organising high-level international gatherings to preserve historical memory and evidence and encourage the international community to unite in the fight against Antisemitism and any forms of intolerance.
Sport offers the possibility of celebrating our humanity regardless of religion, creed, gender, or cultural background, and personal encounter is a precious occasion to overcome barriers and borders.

Run for Mem is the name of the commemorative race which took part in Rome on Sunday January 22, 2017. An innovative initiative by The Union of Italian Jewish communities (UCEI), Run for Mem offered a great opportunity to commemorate together the victims of the Shoah through sport.

The motivation behind the Run for Mem was to reaffirm the value of life that continues in spite of all adversity and in spite of all those that have
port offers the possibility of celebrating our humanity regardless of religion, creed, gender, or cultural background, and personal encounter is a precious occasion to overcome barriers and borders.

Run for Mem is the name of the commemorative race which took place in Rome on Sunday January 22, 2017. An innovative initiative by The Union of Italian Jewish communities (UCEI), Run for Mem offered a great opportunity to commemorate the victims of the Shoah through sport.

The motivation behind the Run for Mem was to reaffirm the value of life that continues in spite of all adversity and in spite of all those that have tried to exterminate the Jews and other peoples throughout the centuries. The race was organised in cooperation with the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers, and in collaboration with the Maccabi Italia Association and the Marathon of Rome.

Thousands of participants from all generations and walks of life took part in the event, which included two routes, of 3.5km and 10 km respectively, through the most significant places in Rome. Starting from the Portico di Ottavia, runners crossed the Jewish quarter and ran along other significant places in Italian Jewish history, such as Piazza Santa Maria Liberatrice, where a small garden was placed in memory of the murdered Di Consiglio family, the Regina Coeli prison in Via della Lungara where between 1943 and 1944 Jews were arrested awaiting deportation, and Piazza San Bartolomeo on the Isola Tiberina, where the brave doctor Pietro Borromeo saved numerous Jewish lives by inventing an imaginary contagious disease named “K”.

Shaul Ladany, Israeli athlete and survivor of the Shoah and of the terrorist attack of the 1972 Munich Olympics addressed participants from the podium: “We are here today for an important cause, that of defending memory and ensuring that it remains a living value”. Ladany was honoured with a commemorative medal by deputy mayor of Rome Luca Bergamo.

Life continues and the strength to survive must be passed on, along with the courage to recount what happened, so that it may never happen again. Citizens of all ages, running together through a history-laden path. By running together, the strong message of life is transmitted.

The race will take place again on Sunday January 28, 2018, this time in Bologna, in the framework of International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorations in the city.
The “Holocaust in Bessarabia” project rose from an urgent need to improve Holocaust education in Moldova. Although it is an integral part of the history of Moldova, school curricula remain deficient, high-school-age students have nowhere to learn about the Shoah.

An initiative that recruits young Jews from across Moldova for a series of educational seminars about the Shoah in the historical region of Bessarabia (today for the most part in Moldova) is unique and unprecedented in the country.

The first three-day seminar, which took place on March 24-26, 2017 focused on Jewish life before the Holocaust, this Jewish life, which no longer exists, and is forever lost, and on the origins of antisemitism. This seminar featured a lecture on the pogroms of Chisinau and the situation of Jews in Bessarabia.

The second three-day seminar took place on April 21-23 and covered the period from the beginning of the Second World War to the fall of the Nazi regime in Germany. Students studied life in the ghettos, their origins, the differences between ghettos in Western and Eastern Europe and the difficult role of the Judenräten. Another focus was spiritual resistance in the ghettos and the role that theatre played therein, as well as physical resistance, where students learned about Sobibor and in particular about the life of Alexander Pechersky.

This was followed by an excursion to the places of mass extermination in Bessarabia. These are in Fyntyne Alba, Klimauzi, Edinet, and in the capital, Chisinau. The participants of the seminars were joined by madrichim of Moldovan Jewish organisations for this excursion.

For the third seminar, on May 21, participants learned about the people who saved Jews during the Shoah in Bessarabia, the Righteous Among Nations. In addition to this, a lecture was held on Holocaust denial.

Finally, the fourth seminar focused on Holocaust remembrance, the different monuments, museums and commemorations and their crucial function in keeping the memory of the
Holocaust. Students debated about the issue of how to improve efforts to commemorate the Shoah in Moldova, such as the beautification of the area around the Holocaust memorial in Chisinau, concerted efforts to improve the well-being of survivors in Moldova, and to follow-up on a series of lectures in schools on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Through the support of the European Jewish Fund, this project proved a turning point for many young Jews in Moldova. The seminar offered substantial knowledge on the very important issue of Holocaust remembrance for the next generation in Moldova.
THE MARCH OF THE LIVING
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THESSALONIKI

On April 19-25, 2017, a Greek delegation consisting of 49 young members of the Jewish communities of Athens, Thessaloniki and Larissa had the opportunity to participate at the 2017 March of the Living.

As well as taking part in the March of the Living, the delegation had the privilege of visiting the cities of Warsaw and Krakow and getting to know the Jewish history of these places, the villages that once blossomed with Jewish life, and the concentration camps of Treblinka, Majdanek and Auschwitz where so much precious lives came to an end.

At the Warsaw Ghetto, the group learned about the living conditions of inhabitants before deportation and imagined themselves at the small houses and inner courtyards of the Ghetto, with the wall, which separated inhabitants from life and isolated them and deprived them of their identity.

Visiting Treblinka, what marked the group most was the fact that there was nothing to bear witness of the horrors that happened there. The Memorial at Treblinka II consists of 17,000 quarry stones symbolising a cemetery. There they learned of the uprising that took place on August 2, 1943, where 700 Jews rose up, and of which about 100 were able to escape.

One of the many moving experiences for the delegation occurred during a visit to the village of Tykocin, which still has beautiful synagogues and community buildings with an extraordinary history behind them, but no longer has any Jewish inhabitants. In 1941, the Jewish population of Tykocin was driven away to a nearby forest and exterminated during the Shoah. Walking in that forest, following in the steps of the villagers of Tykocin, with the painful realisation that their world no longer exists was a very emotionally charged moment for the whole group.

In Auschwitz, participants stood together at the area where the trains arrived, and at that meaningful place heard about personal experiences of young people like them who had to go through the horrors of Auschwitz. Participants shared family stories and everyone felt the sadness for all the victims, but also the admiration for their will to survive.

Being able to take part in the 2017 March of the Living was a defining experience for the young Greek delegation. At a place where millions of people were killed they came together with young people from across the world to commemorate the suffering of so many, but also to celebrate the continuation of Jewish life.

Following this powerful and meaningful experience, the group felt certain that they would never forget and that they would ensure that the next generation would know about what happened in those places, so that it never happens again.
Ghetto, with the wall, which separated inhabitants from life and isolated them and deprived them of their identity.

Visiting Treblinka, what marked the group most was the fact that there was nothing to bear witness of the horrors that happened there. The Memorial at Treblinka II consists of 17,000 quarry stones symbolising a cemetery. There they learned of the uprising that took place on August 2, 1943, where 700 Jews rose up, and of which about 100 were able to escape.

One of the many moving experiences for the delegation occurred during a visit of the village of Tykocin, which still has beautiful synagogues and community buildings with an extraordinary history behind them, but no longer has any Jewish inhabitants. In 1941, the Jewish population of Tykocin was driven away to a nearby forest and exterminated during the Shoah. Walking in that forest, following in the steps of the villagers of Tykocin, with the painful realisation that their world no longer exists was a very emotionally charged moment for the whole group.

In Auschwitz, participants stood together at the area where the trains arrived, and at that meaningful place heard about personal experiences of young people like them who had to go through the horrors of Auschwitz. Participants shared family stories and everyone felt the sadness for all the victims, but also the admiration for their will to survive.

Being able to take part in the 2017 March of the Living was a defining experience for the young Greek delegation. At a place where millions of people were killed they came together with young people from across the world to commemorate the suffering of so many, but also to celebrate the continuation of Jewish life.

Following this powerful and meaningful experience, the group felt certain that they would never forget and that they would ensure that the next generation would know about what happened in those places, so that it never happens again.
In January 2017, Yad Vashem published 1,000 copies of the English translation of Prof. Barbara Engelking’s ground-breaking study “Such a beautiful day”. The translation, from the original Polish into English, sheds light on an aspect of Holocaust history which until now had not been systematically investigated: Jews seeking refuge on the Polish countryside between 1942 and 1945. Prior to this book, relatively little was known about the struggle of those who managed to escape to the Polish countryside and the threats and challenges they faced there.

Prof. Engelking’s masterful research tells the story of the hundreds of thousands of Jews who tried to find refuge from Nazi Germany’s murderous acts within the Polish rural population. It reveals not only their immense efforts to escape, but their despair and helplessness. It also exposes the terrible reality in which these Jews found themselves: a reality where very few acts of kindness were lost among the countless acts of cruelty, abuse and malice.

The translation enables students, researchers and the wider public around the world to access the study’s previously sparsely known, but significant findings.

On March 15, 2017, Yad Vashem’s Centre for Research on the Holocaust in Poland held a symposium marking the publication of the new book. The symposium featured several renowned scholars, such as Prof. Havi Dreifuss, Director of the Centre; Prof. Dina Porat of Tel Aviv University and of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry; Dr. Robert Nozett, Director of Yad Vashem Libraries; Prof. Yehuda Bauer; as well as Prof. Barbara Engelking herself. The event significantly increased awareness of this publication in global academia.